

ROPE-SECURING DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The benefit of Provisional Application Ser. No. 60,405,841, filed August 26, 2002 and entitled ROPE-SECURING 5 DEVICE, is hereby claimed. The disclosure of this referenced provisional application is incorporated herein by reference.

This invention relates generally to marine accessories and relates, more particularly, to a device for securing two sections of rope together in a marine environment without 10 knotting the rope.

To suspend a boat fender from a side of a boat, one end of a rope is tied to the boat fender and the other end is commonly tied to the rail of a boat so that the boat fender hangs suspended from the rail of the boat by the rope. 15 Heretofore, the rope is knotted to effect the desired tie at the boat rail, and such knotting can permanently disfigure the rope and render the rope (with knots tied therein) with an unattractive appearance. It would be desirable to provide a means for securing the rope to the rail of the boat so that the 20 boat fender is securely attached to the boat rail and wherein the means for securing is relatively attractive in appearance.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved device for securing two sections of a rope together without requiring that a knot be tied in the 25 rope sections.

Another object of the present invention is to provide such a device which is uncomplicated in construction yet effective in operation.

Yet another object of the present invention is to 5 provide such a device which is particularly well-suited for use in a marine environment to suspend a boat fender alongside a boat.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention resides in a device for securing two 10 sections of rope together.

The device includes a first set of through-openings through which one section of rope can be threaded and a second set of through-openings through which another section of rope can be threaded so that by threading the first and second 15 sections of rope through the corresponding sets of through-openings, the one and another sections of rope are secured to one another.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the 20 device.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the Fig. 1 embodiment shown being used to secure sections of a rope in a fixed positional relationship with one another.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view taken 25 about line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of another embodiment of

the device.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of still another embodiment of the device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENT

5 Turning now to the drawings in greater detail and considering first Fig. 1, there is shown an embodiment of a device, generally indicated 10, for securing two sections of rope in a fixed positional relationship with respect to one another. To this end, the device 10 includes a body within
10 which a plurality of openings, or holes, are formed through which two sections of rope (or two sections of two ropes) can be threaded.

More particularly, the body 10 is in the form of a plate having two opposite side faces and includes a first set of
15 holes, indicated 20a, through which one section of a rope 22 (Figs. 2 and 3) can be threaded and includes a second set of holes, indicated 22b, through which another section of a rope can be threaded. The holes 22a, 22b in each set are regularly spaced and arranged along a linear path and are sized to closely
20 accept the sections of rope to be threaded therethrough. Accordingly, the diameter of the holes 20a, 20b in the device body 10 closely approximates (i.e. is about equal to) the diameter of the rope sections to be threaded therethrough. Furthermore, the edges of the hole openings are smoothed or
25 slightly beveled to reduce any likelihood that a rope section which is threaded through the holes will be cut, or otherwise

damaged, by the edge of the hole openings.

Although the holes 22a, 22b in each set of holes in the depicted embodiment 10 of Fig. 1 are illustrated as being along a linear path, the holes can be positioned along a non-
5 linear path. Accordingly, the principles of the present invention can be variously applied.

By threading one section of a rope 22 through one set of holes 22a and then threading another section of the rope through the second set of holes 22b, the rope sections are fixed
10 in position with respect to one another at the device 10 - even though the rope sections may be pulled in opposite directions (e.g. to a taut condition). It is believed that the rope sections are prevented from being pulled out of the holes 20a, 20b of the device 10 when the rope sections are pulled in
15 opposite directions by virtue of the frictional gripping engagement between the surface of the rope sections and the surfaces (and edges) of the holes. The tortuous path (i.e. the in-and-out path) along which the rope sections follow through the device body 10 and as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, promoted
20 by the closeness of the spacing between the holes in each set of the device body 10, are also believed to enhance the resistance of the rope sections from being dislodged from their threaded, stationary condition within the device 10.

Along the same lines, the holes in each set are
25 preferably apart by a distance which corresponds generally to (i.e. is about equal to) the thickness of the section of rope

intended to be threaded therein. Accordingly, for use with a rope whose diameter was about 0.5 inches in thickness, the holes 22a, 22b in each set of holes of the device are spaced about 0.5 inches apart. For use with ropes of greater thickness, the 5 holes in each set of the device would be spaced further apart.

An advantage provided by the device 10 relates to the fact that the rope sections do not need to be knotted in order to fixedly secure the rope sections in a fixed positional relationship (in the vicinity of the device 10) with respect to 10 one another. Therefore, the device circumvents any need for the formation of knots which could permanently deform the rope.

Another advantage provided by the device 10 relates to the esthetics thereof. In particular and with reference to Fig. 2, the device 10, along with the rope sections threaded 15 therethrough, is relatively pleasing to look at and is much more attractive than a rope within which one or several knots have been tied.

The device 10 can be used for suspending a boat fender from the side of a boat, but other uses of the device can be had 20 wherein two sections of rope are desired to be fixed in a positional relationship with respect to one another. Accordingly, the principles of the invention can be variously applied.

Exemplary dimensions of the device 10 are as follows: 25 The length and width dimensions of each side face of the device measure 4.0 inches by 2.75 inches, the thickness of the body of

the device is about 0.375 inches, spacing between the holes in each set of holes is about 0.5 inches. Just as the spacing between adjacent holes in each set of holes corresponds to the thickness of the rope section to be threaded through the holes, 5 the thickness of the device does as well. In other words, the thicker the rope section to be threaded through the device, the thicker the device.

It will be understood that numerous modifications and substitutions can be had to the aforescribed embodiments 10 without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, although the device 10 of Figs. 1-3 has been shown and described as being constructed so that the holes 20a, 20b formed therein extend between and open out of the opposite side faces of the device, a device in accordance with the present invention 15 can be constructed so that the holes formed therein extend between the edges of the body thereof, such as is illustrated by the device 30 of Fig. 4 having through-holes which open out of the edge of the body of the device 30.

Further still, although the depicted device 10 of 20 Figs. 1-3 has been shown and described as including sets of holes having four holes each, a device can have an alternative number of holes in each set. For example, there is illustrated in Fig. 5 an embodiment 50 having two sets of holes 52a, 52b comprised of three holes in each set. Accordingly, the 25 aforescribed embodiments are intended for the purpose of illustration and not as limitation.